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Message Text

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14
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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---------- 085726
R 231843Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9155
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGICIGALPA
AMCONSULATE BELIZE
USUN NEW YORK 493
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3836

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ES, GT, PN, PQ, RQ, CU, UK, BH
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S THINKING ON VARIOUS TOPICS

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 3809

B(B) SAN SALVADOR 3781
(C) SAN SALVADOR 2857 PARA 7
1. IN MY SEP 18 CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER (OTHER TOPICS COVERED IN REFTELS A AND B), THE MINISTER AND HIS UNDER SECRETARY WERE SPONTANEOUS AND FRANK IN GIVING THEIR PRESENT THINKING ON SEVERAL MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US. THESE INCLUDED:
2. GUATEMALA - BELIZE - BORGONOVO WAS MOST FORTHCOMING IN RESPONDING TO MY QUERY OF HOW HE VIEWED THE GUATEMALA - UK
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DISPUTE OVER BELIZE. HE BEGAN BY STRESSING THE "CLOSE AND

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FRIENDLY" RELATIONS EL SALVADOR HAS WITH GUATEMALA. HE SAID
THE GOES HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH GOG TO CONSULT WITH IT BEFORE
TAKING ANY ACTION RELATIVE TO BELIZE, EXAMPLES BEING WHAT
POSITION THE GOES ASSUMES VIS A VIS UK APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER
STATUS IN THE OAS OR MATTERS PERTAINING TO VISITS OF BELIZE HIGH
OFFICIALS TO EL SALVADOR. BORGONOVO SAID HE FRANKLY DOESN'T SEE
ANY IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THE BELIZE QUESTION. FROM
HIS VANTAGE POINT, IT APPEARS THAT AT PRESENT (1) GOG CANNOT
LIVE WITH AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE; (2) THE UK DOESN'T WANT TO
MAINTAIN IT AS A COLONY; (3) BELIZE PRIME MINISTER PRICE INSISTS
ON INDEPENDENCE AND (4) IF LEFT TO SELF-DETERMINATION IT SEEMS
PROBABLY THAT BELIZE POPULATION WOULD OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE
RATHER THAN UNION WITH GUATEMALA. THE MINISTER SUGGESTED THE
WAY OUT OF THIS VICIOUS CIRCLE MIGHT LIE IN SOME SORT OF
"ASSOCIATED STATE" STATUS BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND BELIZE, THAT IS
SOMETHING LESS THAN FULL ABSORBTION OF BELIZE BY GUATEMALA.
BORGONOVO SAID HE THOUGHT THE GOG MIGHT BE STARTING TO CONDITION
ITS POPULATION TO ACCEPT SUCH A COMPROMISE SOLUTION. IF THIS
IS NOT POSSIBLE, BORGONOVO SAID THE BEST ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE
FOR THE UK TO HOLD OFF GRANTING BELIZE INDEPENDENCE INDEFINITELY.
HE THOUGHT THAT AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES
WOULD CREATE
LA PROBLEM OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS FOR THE CENTRAL
AMERICAN REGION. I ASKED THE MINISTER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE
UK IGNORES THIS DANGER AND GRANTS INDEPENDENCE, WOULD GUATEMLA
BE LIKELY TO RESORT TO FORCE TO AFFECT A SOLUTION ON ITS
TERMS? HE REPLIED THAT HE SINCERELY HOPES IT WILL NOT COME TO
SUCH A CHOICE. FROM HIS MANNER, I HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION
THAT, IN A FINAL CRUNCH, THE MINISTER COULD SEE NO REALISTIC
ALTERNATIVE BUT FOR EL SALVADOR TO SIDE WITH GUATEMALA, ALBEIT
RELUCTANTLY.
3. PANAMA 1.I OPENED THE DISCUSSION ON THE QUESTION OF A NEW
TREATY ON THE PANAMA CANAL BY SAYING THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON I
HAD CONVEYED PRESIDENT MOLINA'SMESSAGE (REFTEL C) THAT THE GOES
DID NOT WANT TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SCRAP BETWEEN TWO OF ITS
CLOSEST FREINDS.BORGONOVO SAID THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS,
IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE,EL SALVADOR WOULD HAVE TO SIDE WITH
PANAMA. HE PROFFERRED HIS OPINION THAT LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT
FOR A REVISION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY IN ACCORD WITH TODAY'S
ANTI-COLONIAL STANDARDS EFFECTIVELY DEMONSTRATES TO THE
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AMERICAN CONGRESS AND PEOPLE THE LATIN AMERICAN INTEREST AND
SOLIDARITY IN THIS MATTER.
4. PUERTO RICO - AFTER FINISHING WITH THE TOPICS I RAISED,
BORGONOVO SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CURIOUS AS TO WHY THE
CUBAN GOVERNMENT KEEPS BRINGING UP THE QUESTION OF
PUERTO RICAN INDPENDENCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. HE ASKED HOW
THE USG REGARDS THESE EFFORTS. I REPLIED THAT THE USG WAS
INDEED UPSET BY THIS QUESTION BEING SO RAISED BY THE GOC, SINCE

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WE CONSIDER IT A PRESUMPTIVE ACT ON CUBA'S PART AND
DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN US INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I CHARACTERIZED
THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISICULE PRO-
INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTS OF THE PUERTO RICAN POPULACE, AS COMPARABLE
TO SUPPORT FOR AN ARMED INSURGENCY MOVEMENT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY
PERPETRATED BY AN EQUALLY SMALL SEGMENT OF ITS POPULATION.I
SAID WE WERE UNSURE ABOUT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S MOTIVES, BUT
THAT WE DOUBTED THAT IT WAS AT THE BEHEST OF THE SOVIET UNION.
IT WAS MORE PROBABLY THE RESULT OF THE GOC'S NATURAL TENDENCY
TO RESORT TO MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN ITS CREDENTIALS AS A
"REVOLUTIONARY" GOVERNMENT, DESPITE THE PREJUDICAIAL IMPACT ON
RAPPROACHMENT WITH THE USG.
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